

Are We Taking Care Of The Teachers Of Khair?

Call To Islam Research

Al hamdulillaahi rabbil `aalameen was salaatu was salaamu `ala ashrifil Anbiyaai wa al mursaleen nabeeyina Mohammad wa `ala aalihi wa sahbihee ajma'een. Wa b'aadu:

Dear reader, when you want to move to a new town, what would you say were the two most important facilities that should be there for you in that new locality?

A supermarket and a nice park?

The scholars advise that it would be essential to make sure that it has the following:

- 1) A doctor and;
- 2) An Islamic scholar

A doctor to take care of your physical health and medical concerns and a scholar to take care of your spiritual health and religious concerns.

Although here in the UK we do not have the great blessing of Ulamaa' we have the blessing of students who have sat at their feet and have drank from the enormous fountain of their knowledge and are working hard to spread what they have acquired.

In our communities their importance is great and our need for them is great, greater than our need for the doctor. This is because the Islaamic knowledge is something which is a source of success in this short life as well as the eternal afterlife, whereas the doctor's benefit, because of Allaah, is only in this dunya.

So the teachers of good, the teachers of khair are the most important people in any community, but are we recognising their preciousness in our, and the lives of the society?

If you lived in a rural part of England and you had to travel to work everyday to a workplace that is thirty miles away how important and how much care would you give to your car? You would regularly service it and give it all the attention that it needs in order for it to work properly. This is because of your need for it and the benefit it provides for you.

The students of the past generations used to love, support and care for their teachers. They recognised the importance of the teachers in their lives. When they would make du'aa for their parents they would include their teachers along with their parents.

Hammaad Ibn Abee Sufyaan (Rahimahu `Llah) the teacher of Imaam Abu Haneefah (Rahimahu `Llah) was seen by his father going to Ibraheem An-Nakha'ee (Rahimahu `Llah) and getting him water to make wudhu, cooking for him, and taking the rubbish out for him.

Imaam As-Shaafi'ee's (Rahimahu `Llah) concern when he went to study with Imaam Maalik (Rahimahu `Llah) was not just to benefit from his vast knowledge but also: "How can I become his servant."

When the Ulamaa pass away the loss hurts deep inside the heart, and the students are convulsed to tears even though they managed to hold back when their relatives died. The feeling is as if a part of their body had fallen off and the need and love for them is exemplified in the numbers attending their funerals. And all this is felt due to the benefit, inspiration and life changing service that was provided by them.

Our teachers have made sacrifices in their desire to better us, in their kindness in wanting to bring us their khair – huge sacrifices of money, time and energy which many of us may be oblivious to.

In our quest to have our questions answered our focus can sometimes become so narrow that we can forget that these people have needs of their own.

We approach the teacher, after the lesson, amongst a queue of questioners when the time is late and he has travelled from out of town. We ask him many questions and prolong his stay not thinking that maybe these questions can wait for another time, that maybe the teacher is hungry and tired and his family needs him.

What is most distressing is that people benefit tremendously from these teachers who, when they are ill, they don't even give them their rights by visiting them!!

Have we thought about their needs and difficulties? Those needs and difficulties, which due to their humbleness and reliance on Allaah, they don't share it with others, but just say:

"Alhamdulillah – I only complain of my distraction and anguish to Allaah"

So let us take care of our teachers by recognising:

a) **Time:** They need time of their own to recuperate and study. They have families which they have to spend time with and to fulfil their rights.

b) **Finance:** The pay that they receive is minimal. This is because the masaajid rely mainly on donations and have their own various expenses. So we need to offer monetary support, by increasing in our donations to the masjid so that they can afford to pay them more.

May Allaah bless the one who said: "Maybe a brother wants to go on Umrah and Umrah is a blessed act of worship, but it's not obligatory and in the current times we are living in, the Ummah is in dire need of education. So rather than spending the £1,500.00 on something which is beneficial only to the performer I advise the brothers who have already done their obligatory Hajj to give towards the da'wah."

I say this brother has brought forth a saying that is like that of the Imaam of Ahlus-Sunnah, Ahmad Ibn Hanbal (Rahimahu 'Llah) when he said that to enjoin the good and forbid the evil is better than a person praying all night. This is because the qiyaamul-layl of an individual only benefits himself but the enjoining the good and forbidding the evil benefits the people as well as himself.

So would you give up that which is better for that which is lower?

So give of your wealth towards the da'wah in this manner. This da'wah needs money and strong upright people to carry it. Why not speak to the masjid

committee and say: "I want to pay for a particular course, how much would I need to pay?" You will get manifold rewards and also benefit from the lessons yourself!

c) **Food:** Maybe they are hungry/thirsty from their travelling or delivering the lesson. Offer to buy them lunch or bring some food to give to them. If you have lunch with them this will not only earn you a great reward but will also enable you the opportunity to benefit from their manners and ask questions.

d) **Assistance:** Offer to help with a lift, carry books, do their shopping for them etc. If we can save them time from the mundane everyday chores then that gives them more time to study, rest and in turn benefit all of us.

e) **Small Kindnesses:** A gift or a kind word are things which increases love and brotherhood. They show our appreciation and that we care and can help to boost morale.

f) **Be A Good Student:** Surely the delight of the teacher is that his students are benefiting. Be a good student, arrive on time, do your homework, be attentive in class, don't sit rudely by stretching your legs out in front of him, ask relevant questions and don't be excessive, don't refer to him by his name as this is not respectful and make du'aa for him.

Do the above sincerely for Allaah and receive a "jazaak Allaahu khair" from the best of people.

The teachers of khair are the precious lamps in the communities who illuminate the darknesses of the hearts with the light of the Sunnah.

But are we taking care of them?

Wallaahu a'lam - wa sallallaahu 'ala Muhammad wa aalihi wasahbihi wa sallam

published: 09-09-07